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Listing and Amendment of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-16. (CANCELLED)

17. (NEW) A method for testing an appliance, wherein a first audio port and a second audio port of the appliance are used as an interface for testing the appliance, the method comprising steps of:

powering on the appliance;

providing, via the appliance, a carrier signal to the first audio port of the appliance after the appliance is powered on;

detecting, via the appliance, if the carrier signal is looped back to the second audio port of the appliance;

if no carrier signal is detected, turning off the carrier signal and switching the appliance to a normal operating mode; and

if the carrier signal is detected, operating the appliance in a test mode with a control computer.

18. (NEW) The method according to claim 17, further comprising a step of receiving, via the appliance, digital signals for testing, wherein the digital signals are modulated onto a signal having a frequency above 20 kHz.

19. (NEW) The method according to claim 17, wherein the first and second audio ports are stereo output ports of the appliance.

20. (NEW) The method according to claim 18, wherein the appliance generates response signals to the digital signals, and the response signals are modulated by the appliance using an on/off switching mode.

21. (NEW) The method according to claim 17, further comprising a step of using a test adapter for testing the appliance, wherein the test adapter comprises:

a first port for connecting to one of the first and second audio ports of the appliance;

a second port for connecting to the control computer; and

an oscillator for modulating digital signals from the control computer onto a carrier frequency above 20 kHz.

22. (NEW) The method according to claim 17, wherein if the carrier signal is looped back to the second audio port, the appliance bypasses a DC blocking capacitor for providing a supply voltage to a test adapter, wherein the supply voltage is used by the test adapter for opening a loop between first and second ports of the test adapter.

23. (NEW) An appliance, comprising:

a first audio output port operative to output a first analog audio output signal, and to receive a digital test signal from an external computer for testing the appliance;

a second audio output port operative to output a second analog audio output signal, and to output a response signal to the digital test signal;

a first circuit associated with the first audio output port for separating the digital test signal from the first analog audio output signal; and

a second circuit associated with the second audio output port for combining the response signal with the second analog audio output signal.

24. (NEW) The appliance according to claim 23, further comprising a detector operative to detect a test adapter coupled to the first and second audio output ports.

25. (NEW) The appliance according to claim 24, wherein the detector is operative to detect the test adapter in response to the appliance being powered on.

26. (NEW) The appliance according to claim 23, wherein the first and second analog audio output signals are stereo output signals.

27. (NEW) The appliance according to claim 23, wherein one of the first and second audio output ports is used for powering circuits of a test adapter coupled to the appliance.

28. (NEW) A method for testing an appliance comprising a first stereo output port and a second stereo output port, the method comprising steps of:

using the first stereo output port to output a first analog stereo output signal, and to receive a digital test signal for testing the appliance;

using the second audio output port to output a second analog stereo output signal, and to output a response signal to the digital test signal; and

wherein the digital test signal is modulated onto a carrier frequency above 20 kHz.

29. (NEW) The method according to claim 28, comprising the steps of:

using a first circuit associated with the first stereo output port to separate the digital test signal from the first analog stereo output signal; and

using a second circuit associated with the second stereo output port to combine the response signal with the second analog stereo output signal.